

St. Laurence Parish Church,
Hawkhurst in the Diocese of
Canterbury

13.8.2023 - The Festival
Eucharist for St. Laurence,
Archdeacon and Martyr 258

A.D.,

The Sidesmen today are Diana
Hunt and Alison Jones

The Zoom details for this service
are:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1UCa

As we gather and prepare to join
in worship, music is played on the
organ.

WELCOME

O Word of simple wonder
which the prophets voices tell!
Hope divine was born of Mary
in this sacrament to dwell;
born of grace and holy virtue
God is here, Emmanuel.

Holy One, and our Redeemer
under judgement of the law;
still he comes his goodness
showing
truth and beauty to restore;
now as heirs, in blessed
freedom,
Blood and Body we adore!

For thy saints O Lord, we thank
you
in the faith which they profess;
Through their love and work and
witness
which inspires us to confess;
You O Jesus Christ, are our Lord
ever to be served and adored.

Word made flesh to dwell among
us,
perfect love in him is found;
fullness of the Father's glory,
light and loveliness abound.
Let us now in silence worship
O what mystery profound!
In the Name of God: Father, Son
and the Holy Spirit . **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Collect for Purity

**Almighty God to whom all
hearts are open all desires
known and from whom no
secrets are hid
cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of
your Holy Spirit that we may
perfectly
love you and worthily magnify
your holy Name; through Christ
our Lord. Amen**

Penitence

St. Laurence was faithful unto
death and now dwells in the
heavenly kingdom for ever. As we

celebrate his joy, let us bring to the Lord our sins and weaknesses, and ask for his mercy.

We are often slow to follow the example of Christ.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We often fail to walk the way of the cross.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver from all your sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We sing:

Gloria in Excelsis

***Gloria to God, Gloria to God,
Gloria to God in the highest.***

Glory to God in the highest
And peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Gloria to God

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

Gloria to God

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Gloria to God

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, who made St. Laurence a loving servant of your people and a wise steward of the treasures of your Church: fire us with his example to love as he loved and to walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prayer before receiving the

Word of God — Before we read,
we pray

**Eternal God, in the reading of
the Scriptures, may your Word
be heard;**

**In the meditations of our
hearts, may your Word be
known; and**

**In the faithfulness of our lives,
may your Word be shown.**

Amen.

First Reading - 2 Corinthians

9:6-10 read by Xan Kite

Brothers and sisters:

Whoever sows sparingly will also
reap sparingly,
and whoever sows bountifully will
also reap bountifully.

Each must do as already
determined, without sadness or
compulsion,

for God loves a cheerful giver.

Moreover, God is able to make
every grace abundant for you,
so that in all things, always having
all you need,

you may have an abundance for
every good work.

As it is written:

He scatters abroad, he gives to
the poor;

his righteousness endures
forever.

The one who supplies seed to the
sower and bread for food
will supply and multiply your seed
and increase the harvest of your
righteousness.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Hymn

When Laurence was led out to
die,

Love made him prodigal of life,

No armour would he use but faith

Against the persecutor's strife.

The first of seven chosen men

Selected at the Pope's behest,

A deacon's office to fulfil,

In virtue he surpassed the rest.

He was a leader in the fight,

Although no sword hung by his
side,

And with a smile in face of death,

He could the torturer deride.

We praise your triumph here on
earth,

So, holy Laurence, lend your aid,

May each of us your favour feel,

Receiving grace for which we
prayed.

For all the care with which you
served

And loved the city's poor in Rome,

What lustre must enhance your
crown

For ever in the Father's home!
To Father, Son, and Spirit too,
Be honour, homage and renown,
Who will reward your prayers for us
By granting an eternal crown.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever follows me will not walk
in darkness
but will have the light of life, says
the Lord.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel
according to John
Glory to Christ our Lord

Gospel - John 12:24-26

Jesus said to his disciples:
"Amen, amen, I say to you,
unless a grain of wheat falls to the
ground and dies,
it remains just a grain of wheat;
but if it dies, it produces much
fruit.

Whoever loves his life loses it,
and whoever hates his life in this
world
will preserve it for eternal life.
Whoever serves me must follow
me,
and where I am, there also will my
servant be.

The Father will honour whoever
serves me."

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise be to you, O Christ

The Reflection

The Creed - said together
**We believe in one God, the
Father, the Almighty, maker of
heaven and earth, of all that is,
seen and unseen. We believe in
one Lord, Jesus Christ, the
only Son of God, eternally
begotten of the Father, God
from God, Light from Light, true
God from true God, begotten,
not made, of one Being with the
Father; through him all things
were made. For us and for our
salvation he came down from
heaven, was incarnate from the
Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate; he
suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the
Scriptures; he ascended into
heaven and is seated at the
right hand of the Father. He will
come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead, and his**

kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers led by Stephen Ringer

As we give thanks for our patron saint Laurence, we pray for strength to follow Jesus.

Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant.'

Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Unless you change and become humble like little children, you can never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Happy are the humble they will receive what God has promised.'

Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Be merciful as your Father is merciful; love your enemies and do good to them.'

Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Love one another, as I love you; there is no greater love than this, to lay down your life for your friends.'

Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

Jesus said: 'Go to people everywhere and make them my disciples, and I will be with you always, to the end of time.'

Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

We pray for all who suffer and for those who care for them. We remember Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winston, Christian Jervis-Read, Jan Edwards, Geraldine Nurney, Don Buckle, Nigel Lemon, Ray Wicks, Jill Fitzpatrick, Hilary Deller, Georgie Whitaker.

Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

We pray for all recently departed, for those whose years' mind occur at this time, and for all departed benefactors of our parish. We pray for those recently departed: Gillian Robinson, Joan Kent

We pray for those who's years mind occurs this month: Carol Anne Larkin, Olivia Mason, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Douglas Nurney, Eric Warren, Gordon Garwood-Warren, Eunice Botha, William Livermore, Gerald Abbey, Frederick Skeet, Spencer Marriott, Jack Osborn, Richard Jennings, Kenneth Mallion. Saviour, we hear your call.

Help us to follow.

God of mercy, you know us and love us and hear our prayer: keep us in the eternal fellowship of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Merciful Father

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

The Peace Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near through the shedding of Christ's blood, for he is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

Hymn

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

Will you let my love be shown?

Will you let my Name be known?

Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave your self behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?

Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?

Will you set the prisoner free and never be the same?

Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen?

And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'You' you hide if I but call your name?

Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?

Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show, thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me?

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

It is right to give thanks and praise

It is indeed right and good that we should give you thanks, praise and glory, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For after his resurrection he sent out his apostles, evangelists and martyrs to preach the gospel to all nations and lead us in the way of truth. Himself the chief cornerstone, he founded his Church upon the apostles firmly to stand for ever as a sign of your holiness upon earth and a living witness to all of the way that leads to heaven. And so with angels and archangels and

with all the company of heaven
we lift our voices and join in their
unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of
your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

God our redeemer, on our journey
with you you turn us from your
burden into carriers of one
another's burdens. On the way
you feed us with the bread of life
and cup of salvation. Now send
down your Holy Spirit that we may
made holy as you are holy and
that these gifts of the earth and
human hands may be for us the
body and blood of your Son Jesus
Christ

Who, at supper with his disciples,
took bread and gave you thanks,
broke the bread, and gave it to
them saying,

'Take, eat: this is my body which
is given for you; do this in
remembrance of me'

After supper he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks, and
gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Drink this, all of you: this is my
blood of the new covenant, which
is shed for you and for many for
the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as
often as you drink it, in
remembrance of me.'

Great is the mystery of faith.
**Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

Merciful God, in Jesus, through
story, miracle and example you
turn us and all creation upside
down. Direct our hearts in the
ways we should go, visit the
downtrodden and set them on
their feet again, and restore the
land, the sea and air of your
creation, that all things and
creatures and people may fulfil
their created purpose in reflecting
your glory and singing your
praise, until the day when you are
all in all, in union with Christ, ever
one God.

Amen

As Christ has taught us we are
bold to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy
kingdom come; thy will be
done; on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread. And forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive
those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body because we all share in the one bread.

We sing together

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body

and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

A Prayer for those joining us on Zoom who are making their Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

The Distribution of Communion

**The Chalice bearers today are:
Brian Elliott and Ali Jones**

Sing with all the saints in glory,
sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story,

to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are
breaking;
soon the storms of time shall
cease;
in God's likeness we awaken,
knowing everlasting peace.

Oh, what glory, far exceeding
all that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts for ages pleading
never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ
prepares it;
there on high our welcome waits.
Ev'ry humble spirit shares it.
Christ has passed th'eternal
gates.

Life eternal! Heav'n rejoices:
Jesus lives who once was dead.
Shout with joy, O deathless
voices!
Child of God, lift up your head!
Life eternal! Oh, what wonders
crowd on faith: what joy unknown,
when amid earth's closing
thunders,
saints shall stand before the
throne!

Post - Communion Prayers

Give thanks to the Lord for God is
gracious
God's mercy endures for ever.

Eternal God, who gave us this
holy meal in which we have

celebrated the glory of the cross
and the victory of your martyr
Laurence, by our communion with
Christ in his saving death and
resurrection give us with all your
saints the courage to conquer evil
and so to share the fruit of the tree
of life; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. **Amen**

**Father almighty we offer
ourselves to you as a living
sacrifice in Jesus Christ our
Lord. Send us out into the
world in the power of the Holy
Spirit to live and work to your
praise and glory. Amen**

Banns

Notices

The Blessing

May God bless you with
discomfort at easy answers, half
truths, and superficial
relationships, so that you may live
deep within your heart. **Amen.**

May God bless you with anger at
injustice, oppression, and
exploitation of people, so that you
may work for justice, freedom and
peace. **Amen.**

May God bless you with tears to
shed for those who suffer from
pain, rejection, starvation and
war, so that you may reach out
your hand to comfort them and to
turn their pain into joy. **Amen.**

May God bless you with enough

foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn

For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou, in the darkness dread, their one true light.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!

We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors cometh rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blest.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

But, lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,

Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God

May the divine assistance remain with us always.

And with all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **And rise in glory. Amen.**

Please sit for the Organ Voluntary

The Feast of St. Laurence - How the Eucharist changes our life

As we celebrate another Patronal Festival in honour of St. Laurence, we remind ourselves that Jesus offers us the food of his divine life. Such a great gift can be easily overlooked or taken for granted. We eat food in order to live. Jesus offered himself as the “bread of life” so that we could live a different kind of life.

We have a hard time imagining what that different life looks like. When Jesus says, “I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly,” (John 10:10) it is tempting to think of good health, vacations, and prosperity. Jesus

didn't need to die for us to live that kind of life, however. That may be what we want, but our desires fall short of what God wants to give us.

When we eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of God, we enter into “communion” with him, a nourishment strong enough to make us as one. He himself is in perfect communion with the Father, so much so that he lives from this communion: “My food is to do the will of him who sent me” (John 4:34). When we come into communion with Jesus during Eucharist, he is offering us his own food so that we can know his Father and live also in communion with him. He passes on everything that he has to us in the Eucharist.

In response, we might be tempted to think, “Is that all?” It seems so simple and hidden, while we look for something more easily sensed and practically used. Jesus offers us something infinitely greater: the food of his divine life. Such a great gift can be easily overlooked or taken for granted. We miss the hidden offering of Jesus's whole self to the Father, which draws us into his love, offering us the communion for which we were made. We can't be happy without it, but we continue to look past it,

fixated on the junk food of earthly pleasure and comfort.

We cannot preserve his presence in us if we live like everyone else in the world, pursuing other things more than him. If we are in communion with Jesus, we must live “as one” with him, enabling him to be present in us and through us.

The true gift of Jesus’s life might be an interior one, but it should change everything. Jesus himself said that those who eat his flesh and drink his blood will never die (John 6:50), because his life is greater than the life of this world. Without this food, we live more like zombies, maintaining biological life while lacking the true life of the soul that comes only as a nourishing gift from Jesus.

This gift acts as a spiritual leaven that enlivens everything, beginning within our heart as the core and building out from there, layer upon layer. A Eucharistic life cannot be secular, because Jesus desires to be with us in everything that we do. Neither can it be individualistic, because it is based on communion, creating real community with others and shared life that flows from and back toward the altar.

Even if the Eucharist does not seem like a practical gift, it is one

that can and should make everything better, even on a human level. If Jesus wants to give us life, we can expect him to change us, and he will, if we let him. If he changes us, he will then change others through us. He will build an entire way of life centred on his Eucharistic presence. By eating the body of Christ and drinking his blood, we become his body in the world, extending it concretely in time and space.

This life puts God first, prioritising prayer, while also attending to Christ present in others. The Eucharist is the sacrament of love, and thus a Eucharistic way of life must express charity, embodying God’s love concretely to others, whoever they are, not just those who are “like us”. The sacrament becomes a shared centre, uniting us to others by creating stronger families, forming friendships, building community in the parish and becoming a source of celebration that provides joy throughout the year.

When Eucharist ends, Jesus asks us, “Will you also go away?” We should answer as Peter does in John 6: “Lord, to whom shall we go? (John 6:68). We all face this choice. After communion, what are we doing with the rest of our lives? Are we abiding in Jesus or going about our own business?

Are we trying to sustain ourselves with human food?

Today especially helps us to realise that we can live a divine life of communion with the Holy Trinity in company with St. Laurence and all the Saints. Sometimes we aim lower and miss even on that level. With Jesus in us, however, everything is better and becomes a means of expressing our communion with God, with the Saints and with one another. Jesus becomes present in every detail of our lives, becoming present within it, changing it, and directing it in his love. He becomes our daily bread, nourishing us into everlasting life.

NOTICES

WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST at Bowles Lodge ~ 10.00a.m.
Please do join us.

PARISH GIVING SCHEME (PGS) – please be reminded that the way the Church will be collecting and accounting for regular and / or planned giving changed from the end of April 2023. Information packs are available at the side of the church. Your participation in the new scheme is very much encouraged. Please speak to Mr

Julian Van Kan for further information.

THE NEXT BREAKFAST TALK

- will be at 9.30am. on Saturday 30th September. For catering purposes, please sign the sheet at the side of the church if you intend to come to the talk.

*The talk will be given by
Nicholas Holtam, former Bishop of Salisbury.*

The title of the talk will be:

‘Creatiiontide – Everything, Everywhere, All the Time’

LOAVES AND FISHES

You can still leave items on the Vicarage doorstep for the food bank as the summer holiday is coming up and stocks will be depleted. Thank you.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)

The GDPR Privacy Notices for St Laurence Church can be found on the church website. Please ask the churchwardens if you have any questions or would like a paper copy of these notices.

REFURBISHMENT OF THE CHURCH KITCHEN

As you are aware the Church kitchen is undergoing a refurbishment. We are most grateful to a very generous benefactor who is supporting the project. We have incurred a few extra plumbing and decorating costs and would be grateful if anyone would like to give us an additional donation (however small) to help pay for this work.

AT YOUR SERVICE

Vicar: Fr. Rodney Dreyer
01580 754459

Churchwardens:

Miss Alison Jones
01580 755705

Mrs. Liz Hatcher
01580 712099

Organists:

Dr. Charlotte O' Neill
01580 753817

Safeguarding:

Mrs Jane Cooper
07825044877

